

Mayor's Message

July 2009

During the month of July we take the opportunity to celebrate the great Country, State and City in which we live. It is a time to remember those who sacrificed for our independence and paved the way for the lifestyle we enjoy today. As I reflect upon the gratitude I have for past heroes, I am also drawn to those who live around us. One group that I consider to be heroic are the innovative people who own and operate small businesses.

Having owned and operated a small business of my own in the past, I understand the risk of offering a service. It takes confidence, hard work and personal sacrifice to take your idea and put it into practice. Often, it takes a very long time to see the rewards of your efforts and at times, success is allusive. Business owners are pioneers who help us see new possibilities.

Do you have a favorite place to take your clothes for cleaning, get a haircut or stop for a quick meal? What a convenience to have these services close at hand! One important role of the City is to prepare a plan to locate businesses in areas where they can succeed and where they do not interfere with our quiet neighborhoods. This effort takes balance and flexibility, because we recognize the contributions of the businesses and the value of our homes.

Small businesses are owned and operated by your neighbors. They appreciate it when they receive the support of the community. Our Murray Area Chamber of Commerce makes enormous contributions to the quality of life we enjoy here. They are willing supporters of many charitable activities as well as offering their time and talent to a variety of community events. I admire their commitment to the City that goes above and beyond running a business.

Businesses provide a large portion of the funding that helps make City services possible, through both sales tax and property taxes. When we support them, we are also helping ourselves with the ability to keep personal taxes low and enjoy expanded services such as great parks and recreation programs.

With challenging economic times, anything we can do to support our small businesses is helpful. As we consider the independence we enjoy this month, let's celebrate the people who serve us everyday by purchasing local products at our Murray businesses.